

ESTABLISHED 1844

# The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Wm. P. GREENE, Editor.

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Friday, March 1, 1918.

## POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

We promised in our last issue to give to our readers the law relating to the powers of the Commissioners of Public Works, which officers are to be elected in the coming general election in this city. It will be remembered that the general law on the subject provides for three commissioners, whose terms of office are six years, except that at the first election under the law, when bonds are voted, one shall be elected for two years, another for four, and another for six years. We will call the attention of our readers to a serious difficulty in the application of the law to our case in another issue. We are now interested in the powers conferred by the law on these officers.

In reading the section from which we quote below it will be recalled that it has been stated by some persons that the Board of Commissioners act under the authority of the city council, obtain their appropriations from the city council, and do not, therefore, act independently. This we declared in our last issue to be an incorrect interpretation of the law. The reading of the section below will prove this, we think. Section 3017 of the Civil Code of 1912, now of force, reads as follows:

### The Law as it is Writ.

Sec. 3017. Powers of Commissioners of Public Works.—Reports Concurrence of Council.—Said Board of Commissioners of Public Works shall be vested with authority to build or contract for building said water works and said electric light plant and to operate same, and shall have full control and management of same. They may supply and furnish water to the citizens of said cities and towns and also electric, gas or other light, and may require and exact payment of such rates, tolls and charges as they may establish for the use of water and lights. They may sell and dispose of said bonds and apply the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary, towards the purchase of or payment for said plants: Provided, That the said Board shall make a full statement to the City or Town Council at the end of each month of their receipts and disbursements of all kinds during the preceding month. They shall have no power to incur any indebtedness without the concurrence of such Council.

**Absolute and Arbitrary Power.**  
We contend that, subject to the limitation that this Board of Commissioners cannot "incur any indebtedness" without the concurrence of the city council, these commissioners are no more subject to the control of the city council than the directors of the Seaboard Air Line Railway or the directors of the Abbeville Cotton Mills. Of course it will be admitted that the limitation referred to is an important one. But in its practical application it amounts to little. Abbeville is now where we must have water and lights. We suppose that everybody will admit that proposition. Now we will say that the Board of Commissioners says to the city council, "We want to spend five thousand dollars for a steam plant to run the lights, and must borrow the money to buy it." The council says, "No, we do not concur, buy your power from

the Savannah River." The Commissioners refuse to do so. They are as fixed in their position as the council. What are we to do? Would the council not be forced to comply with the wishes of the Board of Commissioners, or put it in the power of the Commissioners to obtain a concurrence by shutting down the plants, or by failing to operate them in a proper manner? Can we expect any good results to come from divided authority in this matter.

### Shifting Responsibility.

Then again, if these commissioners are charged with knowing the wants of the enterprises, will the city council not be disposed either to agree with them in all matters and allow them to contract all the debts they desire, placing the responsibility for mistakes with the officers whom the people have charged with looking after these enterprises; or, if the council will not do this, will it not amount to an eternal conflict of authority in which the Commissioners will always want what council will not want, or in which the council will generally refuse what the commissioners demand, with the result that the service to the residents of the city will grow more and more unsatisfactory, with each body always charging the other with the fault.

### The Rub.

Leaving out this one matter, we assert again that the Board of Commissioners of Public Works is as independent a governing body of these enterprises as are the directors of any private corporation. In the language of the statute, this Board will "have full control and management of the same." And what does this mean? It means that this Board, if it is composed of Mr. Anderson's friends, will have power to keep him in office for four years, it matters not how arbitrary he may become in his dealings with the public, nor how unsatisfactory his work becomes. It means on the other hand that notwithstanding Mr. Anderson may be the best man obtainable for the position two men in office for four years, with no responsibility to the people until the expiration of that time, will have the power to kick him out of office, whether the people want him or not.

### More Salaries Always.

It means, moreover, that these commissioners will have the authority to increase salaries as they see fit, hire additional men as they see fit, fit up offices, have stenographers and other help according to their whim, and generally to do as they please. It means, if it means anything, that this Board may vote themselves salaries according to their estimate of their own worth and pay it out of the income of the plant. It means that they can expend the income of the plant in numberless ways that the people of the city would not approve without any chance to call them to accountability (and the net income of these plants if properly managed, should be several thousand dollars per year.)

### More High Priced Pipe.

It means that the Superintendent, whoever he may be, might decide that the piping on Main street should be taken up and larger piping put down, because perhaps a little sand had been pumped into the pipes, or had gotten into it in some way, and this work might be done and paid for out of the income of the plant just as Mr. Anderson had the council, at a called meeting when certain members were out of the city (about which we will write later) to buy another pipe line to carry water from the upper reservoir to the pumping station, the one already in use having gotten full of sand or roots, which he claimed could not be gotten out. It means a great many things which any sensible man can easily see by reading it and giving it a little study. How long we wonder would it be until this unbridled commission, following Mr. Anderson's lead, would decide to buy an automobile in which the Superintendent and the commissioners could make trips of inspection over the city and to the plant, water sources, etc. Surely these men would not want to walk.

### The High Cost of Living.

What else? This commission, or two members of it, in office for four years, desiring to put over some pet scheme which the income of the

plants do not justify or desiring more salaries or more men under their employ, may "exact payment of such rates, tolls and charges as they may establish" in order to carry out their schemes, and the people will have no relief against the expenditures except through a repeal of the provision which has just been enacted by the legislature.

In other words, with the one exception with regard to incurring indebtedness a board has been established to take charge of the property of the taxpayers of this city, possessing arbitrary powers, without responsibility to any person, and the term of office is such that the people may expect no relief from what they do except through long periods of waiting, unless the legislature relieves us from the trouble we are sure to have.

### Will the People Submit?

In view of these suggestions it must seem important to the taxpayers of this city to agree on a ticket of three men, "good and true," with no maw for office, who will be willing to serve the public as managers of these plants, until we can have the legislature restore the status existing before this legislation was had. Men who create offices or have them created, should not be trusted to fill them. A plant worth one hundred and fifty thousand dollars should not be made the plaything of a few politicians who want to rule everything. The people should assert their authority when it comes to the management of their own property. The taxpayers of this city may agree on a ticket and support it and save the day, or they may turn the plants over to those who made the offices and desire to fill them. It is up to the tax-payers.

## THE KAISER.

(Atlanta Georgian.)

The Kaiser is one of a thousand rulers that have taken as models the great successful killers and rulers—Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon—and been led to destruction by a dream of power beyond their capacity.

The three great world warriors had one thing in common. They went STRAIGHT TO SUCCESS.

What they began they finished—at least until the end overtook them—Napoleon caged at St. Helena, Caesar murdered by his friends, Alexander dead in early youth after killing his best friend in a drunken brawl.

The Kaiser, now in the fourth year of attempt to play Alexander, the Great, must be asking himself what is the matter.

Alexander did not begin a war, march a little way in it, and then stand still with his people starving year after year. HE WENT THROUGH.

Does it perhaps occur to the would-be Napoleon of Potsdam that he is of the wrong period, wrong breed, and wrong kind?

Does he forget how easily Napoleon played with the present Kaiser's Hohenzollern ancestors—about as efficient against Napoleon as so many brewery wagons against a modern military "tank?"

The Kaiser overlooked the fact that the men whom he admired became great because they DID NOT MODEL THEMSELVES ON OTHERS.

Alexander the Great did not look up to any killer as his great model. The man that he admired was Aristotle, the Greek philosopher and naturalist. More money than he inherited from his own father Alexander spent on researches, natural history collections and other work carried on to please Aristotle.

Alexander would not have been Alexander if he had been a mere fighting maniac, with some fighter as his model of greatness.

And Caesar was not a mere fighter. He was a statesman, a man meeting with intelligent counterplotting the keen intelligence of Cicero, dealing with and overcoming the opposition and hatred of the conservative senate, handling, understanding, and using the people—WITH THEIR CONSENT AND APPROVAL.

And Napoleon, the Corsican boy made wise by watching the French revolution, how different he from the autocratic "me and God" inheri-

tor of Bismarck's power and army. Napoleon was a fighter. That was only one part.

See the letters he wrote to the people that he sent to rule Germany for him—he did not bother to go himself—it wasn't necessary. What the Hohenzollerns and the other Germans had built up he could handle with the little finger of his left hand.

Study Napoleon and you will find no man merely planning wholesale murder. He wanted to conquer the world as part of other plans. He was a lawmaker, he was a strange survival of the Italian period of Benvenuto. But he was no half German, half Hun, wholesale murderer.

He was a thinker.

What will history say of this Hohenzollern—William the Second, the last that will possess and exercise power on the earth?

What will be written about him when the change shall have occurred that you see in this picture—hair, mustache, eyes, flesh gone—and only the bones and teeth left, resting, perhaps in some royal grave, rotting perhaps in some ditch where the mob will have buried the would-be "world ruler?"

The world will say that this Kaiser was as much out of date as the occasional wolf found in a civilized country or the stray bear that wanders down into a Catskill village from the mountains.

His day was past. His blood mixture was bad—as shown in his deformed arm, his constant illnesses, and the moral idiocy that led him into the present disastrous undertaking.

"I have dreamed of German world dominion."

He dreamed of emulating the accomplishments of the great world fighters and killers.

But in him THEY would see nothing but the pitiful, run-down, tail-end, dying representative of that which was real in their day and useful because their armies carried civilization with them—that which is unreal, unnecessary, and horrible in this day of the Hohenzollern whose army carries with it nothing but drunken, insane ambition, brutality and autocracy.

## MR. AND MRS. POPE.

Miss Vanie Carroll and Mr. Clifford Pope were married in Athens on Monday, where the bride was in college. They came to Abbeville to spend a couple of days with Mr. Pope's sister, Mrs. J. Irwin Gilmer.

Dr. and Mrs. Gilmer invited a few of their most intimate friends Wednesday evening to meet them. Cards were enjoyed after which refreshments were served. The evening was pleasantly spent by those present.

Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Pope returned to Atlanta, where they will make their home. Mrs. Pope is very attractive and charmed those who were fortunate enough to meet her. Mr. Pope is a young man of fine qualities.

## GREAT \$3,000,000 EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AMONG THE PRESBYTERIANS

The Presbyterians of the South will begin March 1st, a great campaign in the interest of the benevolent work of that church. They propose to fill every pulpit in the Southern Church with speakers on the first three Sundays of March, town and country, and after fully instructing the people on the subject of STEWARDSHIP, they propose to make the EVERY MEMBER CANVASS on the third Sunday and the week following, securing subscriptions beginning April 1st, for the twelve months following, and their aim is to have subscribed \$3,000,000. Last year the church gave \$2,000,000 to benevolences. They propose to increase it 50 per cent. for Sunday, March 3rd.

The following appointments for speakers have been made for churches of Abbeville County:

Bethia—Mr. J. M. Nickles, 3:30 P. M.

Calhoun Falls—Rev. J. A. Clotfelter, 3:00 P. M.

Donalds—Rev. H. C. Fennel, 3:30 P. M.

Hopewell—Rev. J. B. Hillhouse, 11:00 A. M.

"Over the Top With the Best of Luck and Give Them Hell!"

# OVER THE TOP

BY  
Serg't Arthur Guy Empey

Serg't Empey's vivid and gripping story of the great war will be printed in installments in this paper.

Twenty-seven chapters of exciting adventures and heart-stirring action; events that befell this one man from the time he passed from civilian life to take his place in the human wall that stands between civilization and frightfulness.

Serg't Empey is an American who enlisted in the British Army on hearing of the sinking of the "Lusitania." He writes in a straightforward way of his own experiences "over there," of the life in which our own American boys are entering.

# OVER THE TOP

Will Be Printed Exclusively  
IN THIS NEWSPAPER

Lebanon—Rev. D. M. Douglas, 3:30 P. M.

Mt. Carmel—Mr. C. D. Brown, Providence—Rev. J. M. Dallas,

11:00 A. M. Rocky River—Rev. J. A. Clotfelter, 11:00 A. M.

Warrenton—Mr. J. M. Nickles, 11:00 A. M.

Sunday school at Warrenton will be changed from the afternoon for that day to 10:30 A. M.

Willington, though not now in Abbeville County, will have Mr. C. D. Brown at 11 A. M.

These appointments as given may serve to correct appointments previously made and in which the general public is interested.

## FLAGS.

A large United States Flag and a solid blue flag bearing the inscription "Men Wanted for the Army and Navy", is waving in the breezes from one of the upper windows of the Post Office.

## CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

(All advertisements in this column cash in advance.)

J. ALLEN LONG is hereby announced as a candidate for Mayor in the coming Democratic primary election, subject to the rules of the party and he pledges himself to abide its result.

## Notice of Democratic Primary Election!

FOR MAYOR AND SIX ALDERMEN IN THE CITY OF ABBEVILLE.

Notice is hereby given that a Democratic Primary Election will be held Tuesday, March 19th, 1918, for the purpose of choosing a Mayor and one Alderman from Ward One; Two Aldermen from Ward Two; one for full term and one for unexpired; two Aldermen from Ward Three, one for full term and one for unexpired term; one Alderman

for Ward Four. As Democratic Nominees to be voted for at the election to be held on the second Tuesday in April, 1918.

Pledges must be filed and fees paid to the City Clerk not later than March 14th, 1918.

Managers of Election: At Shops, J. L. Clark, James Taggart, L. W. Damsby; at Cotton Mills, John T. Evans, A. H. Barnett, and J. B. Langley; at City Hall, F. W. R. Nance, T. C. Seal and C. A. Botts. Should second primary be necessary it will be held Tuesday, March 26th, 1918.

M. J. ASHLEY,  
Chairman Democratic Executive Committee.

2-15-2t. Feb. 22.

## MASTER'S SALE.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
County of Abbeville.  
Court of Common Pleas.  
MRS. MARY A. McCALLA,  
against

PAT CALHOUN.

By authority of a Decree of Sale by the Court of Common Pleas for Abbeville County, in said State, made in the above stated case, I will offer for sale, at Public Outcry, at Abbeville C. H., S. C., on Saturday in March, A. D., 1918, within the legal hours of sale, the following described land, to wit: All that tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Abbeville County, in the State aforesaid, containing One Thousand and Six Hundred Seventy Eight and 3-10 (1678 3-10) Acres, more or less, as per plat of T. H. Verdell, Surveyor, dated June 2nd, 1916, and including the tract known as the Speer tract and Moseley tract.

TERMS OF SALE—One-half Cash, balance on a credit of twelve months with interest at seven per centum, to be evidenced by the Bond of the purchaser, second by a mortgage of the Real Estate secured by the mortgage debt herein, the purchaser to pay for all papers and revenue stamps; the purchaser, however, having the right to pay all cash.

R. E. HILL,  
Master A. C., S. C.